



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## EDITORIAL.

---

THE leading article in the *Popular Science Monthly* for February bears the sonorous title, "Vegetation a remedy for the summer heat of cities. A plea for the cultivation of trees, shrubs, plants, vines, and grasses in the streets of New York, for the improvement of the public health, for the comfort of summer residents, and for ornamentation."

Science,  
falsely  
so called

With tree planting in cities the *BOTANICAL GAZETTE* is in warmest sympathy, but the arguments advanced by Stephen Smith, M.D., LL.D., "to revive the project of giving the Department of Parks jurisdiction over the trees in the streets, and require it to plant and cultivate additional . . . vegetation" are calculated to astonish the botanist, and make him grieve over the popular inculcation of such ridiculous physiology. "The real problem to be solved may be thus stated. How can the temperature of the city of New York be modified during the summer months?" According to the writer trees can do this, because "forests and even single trees . . . tend to equalize temperature, preventing extremes both in summer and winter." This they do "through their own inherent warmth, which always remains at a fixed standard both in summer and winter." Then, since "the vaporization of liquids is a frigorific process," and plants "emit into the atmosphere considerable quantities of water vapor," it is evident that "vegetation tends powerfully to cool the atmosphere during a summer day." Since "man may live in close proximity to marshes from which arises the most dangerous malaria with the utmost impunity [bold, bad malaria!], provided a grove intervene between his home and the marsh," it is fortunate that "at the period of the day when malaria and mephitic gases are emitted in the greatest quantity and activity, this function of vegetation is most active and powerful."

It is greatly to be regretted that such utterly erroneous conceptions of the work of plants, of which the above are only samples, should find publication at all, and much more that they should appear in a journal which speaks in the name of science, as the *Popular Science Monthly* claims to do. Or must "popular science" be considered merely a pseudonym for grotesque or sentimental fol-de-rol?